

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Community Centre Building and Fundraising Sub
Committees

December 11, 2013

There was a meeting of the Sub Committees for the Community Centre Building project and the Recreation Committee held in the Municipal Council Chamber on Wednesday December 11, 2013. Present was Chair David Bennett (Building Sub-Committee) Robert Kingsbury (Chair of Fundraising Sub-Committee), Mayor Don Eady, Councillors Glen Campbell, Jamey Larone and Margaret Whyte, Arnold Dickson, Barb Dickson, Val Miller, Vern Barr, Jamie Holmes, Ann Limlaw and Steve Osipenko. Staff present was Jennifer Barr, Finance Manager, Kathleen Rogers, Recreation Program Manager and Mackie McLaren, COA/Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the Meeting to Order at 6:30 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest by Members of the Committees, Council or Staff.

3. REPORT FROM COMMUNITY HALL EXPANSION COMMITTEE

Chair Bennett reported that the General Contractor has completed his contract and the Committee is ready to move forward with completing the project. There have been several meetings with Council to put the pricing in order. Only 65 working days remain before the March 31 2014 completion deadline. This is a huge commitment required by the Recreation Committee.

The Members received a Report from Staff with a recommendation to fundraise to complete the expansion of the community centre project.

Chair Bennett said the next step is electrical installation. One price has been received and 4 more firms have been asked to quote. The Committee agrees with Council that there is \$120,000 of total fundraising required to purchase materials to complete the project using volunteer labour wherever possible. He pointed out that this meeting is to discuss whether there is a commitment from the Members to raise the \$120,000. He has said before that he doesn't want any cost of this project to come from taxation. He asked for questions or comments.

Councillor Kingsbury noted that Council Members haven't made a commitment.

Councillor Larone asked for a breakdown of the costs which was verbally supplied to him and the Members present.

Val Miller noted that this works out to \$10 to \$12,000 per year. What if this money can't be raised by the members? Jennifer Barr said the municipality is responsible for all debt. The committee can make a commitment to cover the debt. Val noted that the word "commitment" is a strong word. She suggested "goal" was a better word.

Councillor Kingsbury, as Chair of the Fundraising Sub-Committee said he would not ask to make a commitment. He is not. If this is what the Finance Committee wants he will step down as Chair of the Fundraising Sub-Committee.

Mayor Eady said his original understanding was that no tax dollars would be raised to cover this project. We have come to the end of the contract and have a

shortfall to complete the project which is \$120,000. We either stop now or fundraise.

Jamie Holmes asked if the fundraising could go on longer than 10 years. Where do we stand with the fundraising for the rink roof? Mayor Eady said \$30,000 has been paid down leaving \$70,000 remaining. Mr. Holmes suggested they could go longer on the expansion commitment and work harder to pay off the rink roof commitment then put all the fundraising money into the expansion. Chair Bennett said if you look at the \$120,000 recommendation, volunteers can continue to setup the hall and tear down after events and use the budgeted money towards fundraising and if members flooded the rink, that budget money could also be directed to the fundraising. When you break it down, it is not so bad.

Councillor Kingsbury questioned this. He understood that the \$8,000 that was used for rink attendants would be removed from the 2014 draft Recreation Budget so it wouldn't be there to move from the budget to fundraising in the first place. Chair Bennett said he wasn't notified that this was Council's direction.

Chair Bennett said 1 ½ months ago we were discussing hiring attendants.

Mayor Eady said there has been some discussion at the Recreation Committee level of the possibility of volunteers taking over the management of the rink but the money saved would stay in the budget. There was never a suggestion where it would go. It is fine with him if it goes to the expansion. He also remembers discussions that we would look at all savings available in the Rec Budget to be used towards the expansion project.

Councillor Whyte said the attendants were included in the budget since the first year of this term of Council. She felt there was a need to have a supervisor on the property. The budget included funding to cover this expense but when there was a need to look for ways to save dollars to help with the expansion, it was thought to use these funds.

Councillor Kingsbury said he understood the amount was staying in the budget but not earmarked for expansion.

Mayor Eady said in order to make this decision; we have to have the total cost numbers available. We now have this information. He spoke to Ms. Miller's comment about the word "commitment". The rink roof fundraising was \$100,000. There was never a stipulation that this be paid off in 10 years, it was a goal. This project is at \$120,000 which is \$12,000 per year but we shouldn't tie down to a specific number that we are cutting our own throats.

Jennifer Barr suggested we could change the word "commitment" to "pledge".

Val Miller said if the cost saved from the setup and tear down and volunteer rink attendants could be redirected to expansion it could amount to upwards of \$11,000 per year. Chair Bennett said that was where he was going earlier in the discussion but there is a question now about what monies are going to be in the draft budget that will be saved and redirected by volunteers.

Councillor Kingsbury said he wants the Recreation Committee to make this recommendation.

Chair Bennett said there are a few issues that need to be discussed first. He asked if "pledge" is a better term. Val suggested "goal", Barb Dickson suggested "promise".

Mayor Eady said Council is making the commitment to pay off the debt as we are responsible to the taxpayers. Either it will be met or not by fundraising.

Councillor Larone reminded everyone that Council was approached by the Recreation Committee to apply for the expansion of the Community Centre and understands why there was a need. Recreation Committee has taken a lot of pride in the property. Recreation members keep stepping up with fund raising activities. We have tried to come together to understand the dollars required and we used the word "commitment". This group of volunteers has stepped forward. This is what we need as it will attract more bookings. What Finance Committee and Council want is their expression tonight.

Councillor Campbell said he is not sure what the right word is. Everyone who uses recreation should help shoulder the responsibility. He also sees funds coming from donations.

Councillor Kingsbury asked if the three Council Members would sit on the Fundraising Sub-Committee. Councillor Campbell said he needs to be asked. He has already created a list of 12 volunteers. He is committed. He wants to see it completed. Councillor Larone said he sits on the Building Sub-Committee. This is all he has time for. He needs to know the time commitment. Councillor Kingsbury said that the Fundraising Committee Meeting is held on the same evening following the Building Committee Meeting. Councillor Larone said he will attend as he can.

Mayor Eady said that Council has been part of every fundraising event. Council Members have put a lot of time into volunteer help. Council has chipped in a good many ways in this term. Needs to be a team effort.

Jamie Holmes asked if the total debt for rink roof and expansion – totaling \$190,000 (70K and 120K) could be combined, then all fundraising activities funds go against the total debt. Everything goes to the one goal. Mayor Eady cautioned this suggestion. We have certain people who only donate because of the rink roof so attend their fundraising activities. If you lump them together, some support may drop off.

Robert Johnston said on the other side more people could come because of the hall expansion. Chair Bennett said the roof fundraising activities are already in place. If we take this on we are not tapping into those events. Val Millers said we need some annual events just for the expansion project. Councillor Larone said once you have an expanded facility you have more opportunities for more events which will bring in larger events.

Mayor Eady added that the rink roof debt will most likely be down to \$60,000 at the end of this year. He said that in addition, there will be approximately \$10,000 of the \$120,000 already fundraised by December 31 this year. So the \$190,000 is already down to \$170,000.

Councillor Kingsbury said the donated dollars are hard to get. Need more people on the Fundraising Committee to bring more ideas. Jamie Holmes asked how soon we need the Township dollars. Councillor Kingsbury said right away. He said he would recommend taking the reference to "10 year time period" and "commitment" from the draft recommendation.

Chair Bennett said we don't want to get ahead of ourselves until the fundraising has been met. Our wish list can't get lengthy until the debt is paid down.

Councillor Kingsbury said he is proposing putting together a sub-committee of Recreation for improvements, one aspect of their job would be "where is any money coming from to complete a job or purchase". Mayor Eady said Finance Committee is working hard to put revenue dollars into the Recreation Budget so that the taxes would not be ridiculous. He proposes a reserve for Building Maintenance. His previous statement about tax dollars would mean we could use other revenue sources like Lot Development Funds.

Mayor Eady said that we do not have a resolution to spend more money on the expansion and we have current bills to pay. The project is dead unless we come up with this solution.

Chair Bennett said the Members know what is required. He asked for their response to the recommendation with the suggested changes by Councillor Kingsbury. Would the Members support the Township providing bridge financing for the project.

Steve Osipenko asked what the \$120,000 covers. Chair Bennett said electrical, insulation, drywall, flooring, kitchen, bar expansion, stage and paint.

The Members reviewed the following resolution:

Moved by Robert A. Johnston, Seconded by Jamie Holmes

THAT the Recreation Sub Committee for Fundraising for the Community Hall Expansion set the goal of fundraising for \$120,000 in order to complete the expansion of the community hall as described in the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund;

THAT the Township continues to cash flow the \$120,000 until such time as the Recreation Sub Committee for Fundraising meets this goal;

THAT any annual short term borrowing costs be the responsibility of the Township;

THAT Dave Bennett agrees to be responsible for the set up and dismantle of the stage, tables and chairs for the year 2014 and the salary payments be directed to the Building Expansion Fundraising Fund;

THAT the Recreation Committee be responsible for the supervision of the rink when Mr. Yantha is not present and that the salary payments be directed to the Building Expansion Fundraising Fund (estimated 2014 budget is \$7,630);

AND THAT Dave Bennett host a session for volunteers instructed by Jim Miller for WHMIS and Fall Protection training and Dave Bennett is to provide all necessary safety equipment for the volunteers while on site.

The Members discussed the resolution. Mayor Eady said the goal is to fundraise within 10 years. We don't know if we have volunteers to run the rink. Chair Bennett suggested that if the Recreation Committee makes the motion then they have made their commitment.

Councillor Kingsbury said this is not a Recreation Meeting and he did not support a 10 year period. The reference to \$7,630 would be committed to without looking at the draft budget. He doesn't know what effect it will have to the draft budget.

Chair Bennett said we have to make a commitment tonight as we are stalled.

Steve Osipenko said he is committed to volunteer to have funds go to the expansion. He suggested removing the reference to the \$7,630 amount.

Barb Dickson said she did not support the reference to 10 years. Councillor Campbell asked if there was a time line for the rink roof fundraising. Chair Bennett said the target was 10 years. Councillor Campbell said we are putting together a 10 year capital forecast. Would this commitment tie up a future Council?

Chair Bennett said there is growth potential and as long as the committee looks after the rink and labour without payroll costs the goal will be met.

Robert Johnston asked for a vote.

The following amendment was presented:

Moved by Bob Kingsbury, Seconded by Steve Osipenko that the words "(estimated 2014 budget is \$7,630) be removed from the 5th paragraph of the resolution.

Carried.

Chair Bennett then called for a vote on the amended resolution which now reads:

THAT the Recreation Sub Committee for Fundraising for the Community Hall Expansion set the goal of fundraising for \$120,000 in order to complete the expansion of the community hall as described in the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund;

THAT the Township continues to cash flow the \$120,000 until such time as the Recreation Sub Committee for Fundraising meets this goal;

THAT any annual short term borrowing costs be the responsibility of the Township;

THAT Dave Bennett agrees to be responsible for the set up and dismantle of the stage, tables and chairs for the year 2014 and the salary payments be directed to the Building Expansion Fundraising Fund;

THAT the Recreation Committee be responsible for the supervision of the rink when Mr. Yantha is not present and that the salary payments be directed to the Building Expansion Fundraising Fund;

AND THAT Dave Bennett host a session for volunteers instructed by Jim Miller for WHMIS and Fall Protection training and Dave Bennett is to provide all necessary safety equipment for the volunteers while on site.

Carried.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Larone asked when the training of volunteers will take place. Chair Bennett said he will arrange and advise the volunteers and staff. It is hoped to be completed before Christmas.

Councillor Whyte noted the commitment from staff members and Council Members who are contributing through a payroll deduction plan.

The Committee Members discussed the training. They agreed that it will be discussed further at the December 18th Recreation Committee Meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Randy Corbin, Seconded by Barb Dickson that this Meeting be adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Carried

CHAIR

CAO/Clerk